

Calendar No. 906

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION**H. R. 3292****[Report No. 106–459]**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2000

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and  
Public Works

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Reported by Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italie*]**AN ACT**To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National  
Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Cat Island National  
5       Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

1           (1) as the southernmost unleveed portion of the  
2       Mississippi River, Cat Island, Louisiana, is one of  
3       the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi  
4       Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynam-  
5       ics of the river;

6           (2) Cat Island supports one of the highest den-  
7       sities of virgin bald cypress trees in the entire Mis-  
8       sissippi River Valley, including the Nation's cham-  
9       pion cypress tree which is 17 feet wide and has a  
10      circumference of 53 feet;

11          (3) Cat Island is important habitat for several  
12      declining species of forest songbirds and supports  
13      thousands of wintering waterfowl;

14          (4) Cat Island supports high populations of  
15      deer, turkey, and furbearers, such as mink and bob-  
16      cats;

17          (5) conservation and enhancement of this area  
18      through inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge  
19      System would help meet the habitat conservation  
20      goals of the North American Waterfowl Management  
21      Plan;

22          (6) these forested wetlands represent one of the  
23      most valuable and productive wildlife habitat types  
24      in the United States, and have extremely high rec-

1 reational value for hunters, anglers, birdwatchers,  
2 nature photographers, and others; and

3 (7) the Cat Island area is deserving of inclusion  
4 in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

6 For purposes of this Act—

7 (1) the term “Refuge” means the Cat Island  
8 National Wildlife Refuge; and

9 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
10 of the Interior.

11 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES.**

12 The purposes for which the Refuge is established and  
13 shall be managed are—

14 (1) to conserve, restore, and manage habitats  
15 as necessary to contribute to the migratory bird pop-  
16 ulation goals and habitat objective as established  
17 through the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture;

18 (2) to conserve, restore, and manage the signifi-  
19 cant aquatic resource values associated with the  
20 area’s forested wetlands and to achieve the habitat  
21 objectives of the “Mississippi River Aquatic Re-  
22 sources Management Plan”;

23 (3) to conserve, enhance, and restore the his-  
24 toric native bottomland community characteristics of

1 the lower Mississippi alluvial valley and its associ-  
 2 ated fish, wildlife, and plant species;

3 (4) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to  
 4 maintain and assist in the recovery of endangered,  
 5 and threatened plants and animals; *and*

6 ~~(5) to provide opportunities for priority public~~  
 7 ~~wildlife dependent uses for compatible hunting, fish-~~  
 8 ~~ing, trapping, wildlife observation and photography,~~  
 9 ~~and environmental education and interpretation; and~~

10 ~~(6)~~(5) to encourage the use of volunteers and  
 11 facilitate partnerships among the United States Fish  
 12 and Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation  
 13 organizations, and other non-Federal entities to pro-  
 14 mote public awareness of the resources of the Ref-  
 15 uge and the National Wildlife Refuge System and  
 16 public participation in the conservation of those re-  
 17 sources.

18 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE.**

19 (a) ACQUISITION BOUNDARY.—The Secretary is au-  
 20 thorized to establish the Cat Island National Wildlife Ref-  
 21 uge, consisting of approximately 36,500 acres of land and  
 22 water, as depicted upon a map entitled “Cat Island Na-  
 23 tional Wildlife Refuge—Proposed”, dated February 8,  
 24 2000, and available for inspection in appropriate offices  
 25 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

1 (b) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary may  
2 make such minor revisions of the boundary designated  
3 under this section as may be appropriate to carry out the  
4 purposes of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of  
5 property within the Refuge.

6 (c) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary is authorized to ac-  
7 quire the lands and waters, or interests therein, within the  
8 acquisition boundary described in subsection (a) of this  
9 section.

10 (d) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
11 the Refuge by publication of a notice to that effect in the  
12 Federal Register and publications of local circulation  
13 whenever sufficient property has been acquired to con-  
14 stitute an area that can be efficiently managed as a Na-  
15 tional Wildlife Refuge.

16 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

17 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—The Secretary shall administer all  
18 lands, waters, and interests therein acquired under this  
19 Act in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-  
20 tem Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.). The  
21 Secretary may use such additional statutory authority as  
22 may be available for the conservation of fish and wildlife,  
23 and the provision of fish- and wildlife-oriented recreational  
24 opportunities as the Secretary considers appropriate to  
25 carry out the purposes of this Act.

1       **(b) PRIORITY USES.**—*In providing opportunities for*  
2 *compatible fish- and wildlife-oriented recreation, the Sec-*  
3 *retary, in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4) of sec-*  
4 *tion 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Adminis-*  
5 *tration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)), shall ensure that*  
6 *hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and*  
7 *environmental education and interpretation are the pri-*  
8 *ority public uses of the Refuge.*

9       **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10       There are authorized to be appropriated to the De-  
11 partment of the Interior—

12               (1) such funds as may be necessary for the ac-  
13 quisition of lands and waters designated in section  
14 5(c); and

15               (2) such funds as may be necessary for the de-  
16 velopment, operation, and maintenance of the Ref-  
17 uge.



**Calendar No. 906**

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R. 3292**

**[Report No. 106-459]**

---

**AN ACT**

To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island  
National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Par-  
ish, Lousiana.

---

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Reported with amendments